

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04430 151725Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4430

EXDIS

FOR NEA/AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EG, US
SUBJECT: US/EGYPTIAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 33436

1. MAHER ABAZA, MINELECTRICITY UNDERSECRETARY AND OUR PRINCIPLE CONTACT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT MATTERS CALLED EMBOFF MARCH 15 TO REQUEST STATUS REPORT ON APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT. ABAZA SAID HE CALLING ON BEHALF OF DEPRIMIN AND MINELECTRICITIY SULTAN. ABAZA SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTINGHOUSE ARE REACHING "CRITICAL" STAGE AND THAT GOE NEEDS "GREEN LIGHT" FROM U.S. IN FORM OF CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS. ABAZA REMINDED EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WILL BE VISITING U.S. IN FEW WEEKS AND IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE PROGRESS ON AGREEMENT BY TIME OF VISIT. MINISTER SULTAN, ABAZA WENT ON, IS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT SADAT RAISE MATTER DURING HIS U.S. VISIT, BUT WANTED TO FIRST CHECK WITH US TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER NEWS.

2. EMBOFF SAID THAT REVIEW OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREE-
MENTS STILL CONTINUING AND THAT AS FAR AS WE AWARE, THERE
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ARE NO IMMINENT PLANS TO SEND IT TO CONGRESS FOR ACTION.

3. COMMENT: ABAZA IS AWARE OF SIXTY-DAY CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TIME AND KNOWNS THAT NOTHING COULD BE CONCLUDED BEFORE OR DUING SADAT VISIT. NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTINGHOUSE, HOWEVER, ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND WE SUSPECT TIME HAS COME WHEN, IF U.S./GOE AGREEMENT WERE TO BE APPROVED

,
GOE/WESTINGHOUSE AGREEMENT COULD BE CONCLUDED. ABAZA'S CALL IS
PREDICTABLE TACTIC TO TRY TO USE SADAT VISIT TO RAISE NUCLEAR
COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT
SADAT WILL RAISE THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS THAT OF FINANCING FOR
EVENTUAL NUCLEAR PLANT WHILE IN WASHINGTON.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PROVIDE REPLY WHICH WE SHOULD
PASS TO DEPRIMIN SULTAN. ABAZA SAID SULTAN WOULD LIKE REPORT
NEXT FEW DAYS IF POSSIBLE. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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